

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of improving transmission efficiency in a mobile communication system with a layered protocol stack, wherein data packets are processed on an upper protocol layer; the processing is controlled according to at least one timer of the upper protocol layer; the data packets are forwarded to a lower protocol layer for transmission, the transmission is controlled by the lower protocol layer ~~and the transmission is performed with variable channel access delays, and performed on a physical layer~~, the method comprising:

initiating a transmission with a variable channel access delay caused by a control procedure of the lower layer;

detecting the start of a transmission by the lower protocol layer;

notifying the upper protocol layer by the lower protocol layer when a transmission is started; and

synchronizing at least one timer of the upper protocol layer according to the notification.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the timer models a measure of time selected from the group consisting of a round trip time [[or]] and a back-off time.

3. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A device in a mobile communication system, the mobile communication system having a layered protocol stack, wherein data packets are processed on an upper protocol layer; the processing is controlled according to at least one timer of the upper protocol layer; the data packets are forwarded to a lower

protocol layer for transmission, the transmission is controlled by the lower protocol layer, ~~and the transmission is performed with variable channel access delays, and performed on a physical layer,~~ the device comprising:

a means for initiating a transmission with a variable channel access delay caused by a control procedure of the lower layer;

a means for detecting the start of a transmission by the lower protocol layer;

a means for notifying the upper protocol layer by the lower protocol layer when a transmission is started; and

a means for synchronizing at least one timer of the upper protocol layer according to the notification.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, comprising at least one of a user equipment and a network node.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the at least one timer is adapted to model at least one of a round trip time and a back-off time.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a notification is sent at the start of a transmission or at the end of a delay.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a total channel access delay comprises at least two separate components and a notification is sent between the at least two separate components.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the channel access delay includes a component of arbitrary length and at least one of a notification and a scheduling is performed before the component of arbitrary length.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a scheduling process is finished immediately before the scheduled data packets are transmitted.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a notification is a primitive.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the lower protocol layer is a medium access control sub-layer of a data link layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the upper protocol layer is a radio link control sub-layer of a data link layer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission is performed on a channel that can be shared by at least one of a plurality of several users and data flows.

28. – 38. (Canceled)